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## PAUL SINCLAIR AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

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### INTRODUCTION

I make no apology for starting this contribution on a personal note. I had the pleasure and privilege of meeting Paul Sinclair for the first time in September 1983 when he visited the University of Zimbabwe and presented a seminar paper in the History Department. The seminar paper entitled, 'A spatial analysis of archaeological sites from Zimbabwe' was my first real introduction to archaeology in general and spatial analysis in particular. This meeting has remained significant to me for a number of reasons. It took place just two weeks before I was due to leave Harare for Cambridge University to read for my MPhil degree in Archaeology. At this time I did not have a clear idea of what topic I was to work on for the MPhil thesis. The subject of his seminar paper set me thinking and the result was that when I started working on my thesis, it was to be on an aspect of spatial analysis on which I was to subsequently publish a few articles during the development of my career. Mine is not the only testimony on how Paul Sinclair influenced the academic career of an African. At the Bagamoyo meeting, several participants acknowledged how Sinclair has played a significant role in the development of their careers.

### Biographical Note

Paul was born in 1949 in Scotland and came to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe in 1956. He was educated at St Andrew's College in Grahamston in South Africa. He joined Cape Town University where he graduated with a BSc in Zoology in 1970. From Cape Town, he decided to switch to archaeology and launched his career in the discipline at Cambridge University, graduating with a BA and an MA in Archaeology and Anthropology in 1974. Here it is significant to note that he took a special option in African Archaeology. After a brief lectureship at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa in 1975, he accepted the post of Curator at Great Zimbabwe in the then Rhodesia. It is from here that we can effectively trace the beginning of his passion and commitment to the development of archaeology in the region. At that time the liberation war in Zimbabwe had intensified and Great Zimbabwe itself was not the safest of places to be. The monument occupied and has continued to occupy a very important place in the political history of the country (Garlake, 1983; Pwiti, 1996). It was therefore the target of both the colonial regime as well as the